

(BOCA RATON, FL) --- Congressman Allen West (FL-22) today held his first meeting with the Small Business Advisory Committee of the 22nd Congressional District of Florida and announced several upcoming small business events scheduled throughout the Congressional District in the upcoming months.

"As a member of the House of Representatives Committee on Small Business, I look forward to the insight the Small Business Advisory Committee will provide to enable me to take the concerns of small business owners to Capitol Hill," West said. "Too often, Members of Congress come to Washington and forget that the economic engine of our nation's economy is Small Business."

The 22nd Congressional District is one of the epicenters of small business in the United States. Along US1 Highway, small businesses align almost every block. However, too many vacant business spaces exist and Congressman West believes there is much to be done to provide the conditions for job growth.

"I am also pleased to announce several upcoming Small Business Events such as an Empowerment Forum, a networking luncheon, a Small Business Town Hall Meeting, an upcoming Job Fair and a Small Business Congressional Field Hearing," West stated.

Congressman West is holding today's first meeting in recognition of Small Business Week. Small Business Week recognizes the contributions of small businesses to the economic well-being of America and honors the estimated 27.2 million small businesses in America. More than half of Americans either own or work for a small business. They also create 60-80 percent of new jobs in the country. Small businesses drive innovation, create 21st century jobs and increase U.S. competitiveness.

Congressman Allen West's newly appointed Small Business Advisory Committee consists of small business owners selected to advise the Congressman. The members of Congressman West's Small Business Advisory Committee are as follows:

Rick Case, Rick Case Automotive Group

George Cable, Cable Marine
Jonathan Binder, Consilium Investment
Bill Feinberg, Allied Kitchen and Bath
St. George Guardabassi, Berger Commercial Reality Corporation
Dale Hedrick, Hedrick Brothers Construction
Dean LaVallee, Park Avenue Barbeque
Steve Schmidt, Office Depot
Byron Russell, Cheney Brothers
Phillip Nicozisis, Nico Properties
Shirley Brostmeyer, Florida Turbine Technologies

Congressman West would also like to invite the community to several upcoming Small Business Events:

Friday, May 20th
Small Business Empowerment Forum hosted by the Alliance for Affordable Services
Friday, May 20th
Hilton Hotel
Deerfield Beach
8- 9:00 am
*Employers can register by calling Alliance Member Services at 800-733-2242.

June 8th
Florida Atlantic Research and Development Authority Forum
Deerfield Beach
8-12 pm

July 1st
WJNO Business Networking Luncheon
Date and Time: TBA

July 22
NFIB Town Hall Luncheon
Date and Time: TBA

Job Fair: TBA

Field Hearing: TBA